

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE UNION EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Slavery in the
WHEREAS, by the repeal of the eighth section of the act for the admission of Missouri into the Union, the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska have been opened to the introduction of Slavery; and

WHEREAS it is now apparent that an effort is to be made to propagate and extend that institution over this continent, to perpetuate the same and to secure to its votaries the entire control of our government now and at all times; and

WHEREAS such attempt is contrary to the spirit of our Constitution, a reproach to free institutions, and a dishonor to the age in which we live; in counteraction whereof, we the undersigned do associate ourselves together by the name and title of *The Union Emigration Society*, to be located in the city of Washington, D. C., subject to the following rules and regulations:

ARTICLE I.

Any person may become a member of this society on subscribing to the constitution and paying to the use of the society the sum of one dollar, and shall continue a member so long as he shall continue to pay such sum annually.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the society shall be a president, vice president, seven directors, treasurer, secretary, and corresponding secretary, to be elected in the first instance immediately, and thereafter on the first Monday in January annually: *Provided*, That the office of secretary and corresponding secretary may be held by one and the same person.

ARTICLE III.

The officers shall perform such duties as appertain to their respective stations, and such also as shall be devolved on them by the by-laws of the society.

ARTICLE IV.

Any person paying the sum of one hundred dollars shall be an honorary president of the society for life; by paying the sum of fifty dollars, he shall be an honorary vice president for life; by paying the sum of twenty-five dollars, he shall be an honorary director for life; and by paying the sum of fifteen dollars, he shall be a member for life.

ARTICLE V.

The moneys of the society shall be appropriated to promote such emigration into the above-named Territories as shall be opposed to the introduction of slavery into the same, or, if slavery shall be introduced, as shall be in favor of repealing all laws tolerating the same, and also for the promotion of all objects which, in the judgment of the directors, are best adapted to prevent the extension of slavery into any part of this continent now free: *Provided, always*, That nothing shall be done by virtue hereof in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, nor in conflict with the existing laws of the land.

ARTICLE VI.

Suitable by-laws shall be adopted at the first meeting of the society, and the same may be altered or amended at any annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Societies auxiliary to this society may be formed in the different States, counties, cities, and villages, of the Union; and in such case the officers of such auxiliary societies shall be *ex-officio* members of this society.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 29, 1854.

JOHN Z. GOODRICH, (of Mass.) *President*.
FRANCIS P. BLAIR, *Vice President*.

TRUMAN SMITH, (of Ct.)
L. D. CAMPBELL, (of Ohio),
BENJ. PRINGLE, of N. Y.
DANIEL MACE, (of Indiana),
A. TRACY, (of Vermont),
PRESTON KING, (of N. Y.),
G. BAILEY, (of D. C.)

Directors.

THOMAS N. HOWE, *Treasurer*.

C. B. ADAMS, *Secretary and Corresponding Secretary*.

THE UNION EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

SECTION 1. On meeting of the Society, the President, or in his absence the Vice President, or in the absence of both, any Honorary President or Vice President present, shall take the chair and call the meeting to order.

SEC. 2. The Presiding Officer shall see that the proceedings of the Society are conducted in a decent and orderly manner, and in conformity to the rules observed by deliberative assemblies.

SEC. 3. The minutes of the last meeting shall be first read and after being corrected, if need be, shall be approved.

SEC. 4. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but during the recess of Congress, a majority of the Directors in this city shall constitute such quorum.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep safely all the moneys of the Society, and to pay the same over from time to time to the Secretary on order of the President, or in his absence, of the Vice President.

SEC. 6. Neither the President nor Vice President shall give any such order, except pursuant to an appropriation by the Board of Directors.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Society, and also of the Board of Directors. He shall disburse all the moneys of the Society, in which he shall take vouchers and lodge them from time to time with the Treasurer.

SEC. 8. The Board of Directors shall at least once a year, appoint a committee of not less than two of their number to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and also of the Secretary, which shall be reported to, and laid before the Annual Meeting of the Society.

SEC. 9. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to correspond with the officers and members of the Society, with auxiliary Societies, their officers and members, and with such judicious and discreet persons as concur in the object and purposes of this Society. He shall keep copies of all letters sent, and preserve carefully all letters received on file, which shall be at all times subject to the inspection of officers of the Society.

SEC. 10. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at the rooms thereof in this city, or at such other place as the Board of Directors may appoint, on the First Monday of January annually, and Special Meetings may be called by the President or Board of Directors, and shall be called by the President or by said Board on the requisition of any ten members of the Society.

SEC. 11. The Officers of this Society and all its employees, are especially enjoined to pursue the object thereof, with moderation and decorum, and while they are expected to observe and recognize all the constitutional rights of so much of our common country as is afflicted with the Curse of Slavery, yet they are required to use all lawful means to assert the great principle, that *so much of our Continent as is now free, shall remain free.*

SEC. 12. The members, officers, and employees of this Society, will extend their sympathy and good will to such of their fellow-citizens of the Slave holding States as have observed the faith of Compromises, and while they feel bound to resist the extension of Slavery into territories now free, and particularly into such as were consecrated to freedom by the solemn compact of 1820, they pledge themselves to pursue no aggressive policy toward the Slaveholding States, but will limit themselves to the assertion of the principle here indicated, and to holding to a just responsibility, those, who by a repeal of the act of 1820, have proved themselves enemies to the peace of the country.

SEC. 13. Neither party names, nor past differences shall separate us in pursuit of the objects of this Society, and in view of our responsibilities as citizens of a free country we cast into utter oblation by-gone questions and effete ideas, and upon the platform of 1776, we constitute ourselves a BROTHERHOOD OF LIBERTY.